

P100503 **ENVIRONMENT POLICY**

Objectives

A healthy natural environment is fundamental to our social, physical and economic wellbeing. With the increasingly visible impacts of population growth and its resultant development pressures there has been a broad recognition across the community that development must be scaled to the environment's capacity to assimilate it, if we are to maintain an acceptable standard of living into the future.

The natural environment is the principal reason most people live in, or visit Denmark. In an increasingly populous and fast-moving world, the attractions of tall forests, clean air, pristine oceans, unspoiled landscapes, a closer relationship with nature, and a relaxed pace of life are in growing demand.

Council is responsible for making decisions which directly affect the local environment – and thus, indirectly, other environments. It therefore has an explicit duty to balance the needs of a growing population against their impacts upon the natural world.

Council supports the ethic of ecological sustainability. It will endeavour in all its activities to apply the principles associated with conserving natural resources, integrate environmental accounting procedures into its management decisions, and favour development which clearly demonstrates sympathy with the environment; to preserve Denmark's unique appeal and sense of place in the interests of present and future generations.

Implementation Mechanisms

The objectives of this policy are implemented through a range of mechanisms including but not limited to:

- participatory and advocacy communication;
- stakeholder consultation;
- community education;
- compliance with State and Federal legislation;
- planning
- allocation of resources;
- adaptive and integrated management and best practice processes.

Associated Documents

Organisational Wide

- Strategic Planning for the Shire of Denmark (February 2006)
- Plan for the Future
- Capital Works Plan
- 10 Year Long Term Financial Plan
- Asset Management Plan
- Annual Municipal Budget
- Council Policy Manual

- Local Laws
- Inlet Sandbar Opening Protocols (Wilson, Irwin & Parry)

Planning & Sustainability Services

- Town Planning Scheme No. 3
- Local Planning Strategy (2011)
- Town Planning Scheme Policies
- Municipal Heritage Inventory 2011
- Shire of Denmark Coastal Reserves Management Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2020
- Mt Hallowell Reserve Management Plan
- Wilson Inlet Foreshore Management Plan (2008)
- Shire of Denmark Weeds Strategy and Action Plan 2005 – 2010
- Denmark Greening Plan
- Roadside Vegetation and Conservation Values in the Shire of Denmark (Roadside Conservation Committee, 2011).

Infrastructure Services

- Shire of Denmark Guidelines for Subdivision and Development of Land
- Paths & Trails Network Plan
- Handbook of Environmental Practice for Road Construction and Maintenance Works (Roadside Conservation Committee, Main Roads WA, WALGA)
- Code of Practice for Roadside Conservation and Road Maintenance (Shire of Denmark) (amended from time to time)
- Declared Flora Roads Management Plan (Shire of Denmark) (amended from time to time)
- Environmental Impact Assessment Checklist (Shire of Denmark) (amended from time to time)
- Waste Management Strategy
- 'Do-Not-Spray-My Verge' Register

Community & Regulatory Services

- Bush Fire Prevention Plan
- Disability Services, Access & Inclusion Plan 2007 – 2011
- Local Emergency Management Plans

NB: this list of Associated Documents has been provided as a reference guide only and should not be considered to be exhaustive.

Responsibility for Implementation

All employees of the Shire are responsible for implementation of this Policy.

AMENDED by Res: 090512 / 1 May 2012